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May 6, 1999

Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket #98N-1038

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter serves to relay my thoughts on removing all current labeling requirements for irradiated food. In a word ... DON'T!

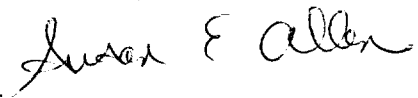
As a consumer, I feel it's my right to make informed choices. I already muddle through "the fine print" in order to purchase products which coincide with my lifestyle. I buy organic foods and whole foods with the premise that my family benefits from such.

My understanding is that the FDA is asking whether current irradiation labeling requirements be revised and less conspicuously displayed, or consider such alternative terms as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" instead of irradiation; and whether such labeling requirements should expire at a specified date in the future. Let me address each one. First, less conspicuously displayed: as a mother shopping with my three year old and two year old, the more obvious the labeling the better. Trying to watch the two little ones doesn't leave much attention span for labels. Second using alternative terms, is that like 'sanitary engineers' for 'garbage collectors', I think this world would be a better place if more people called a spade... a spade. Finally, letting labeling requirements expire in the future: Please no! some people really care about what they are eating!

My hope is that the FDA exists to inform and protect 'the people', like me. Please don't take away my choice to refrain from consuming irradiated foods by changing current labeling requirements. This country was based on freedom of choice for the individual. Please don't let big business, with their economic concerns, squash the concerns of the individual.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter. My two small children, husband, and I (due with my third child in October) anxiously await a favorable outcome.

Sincerely,



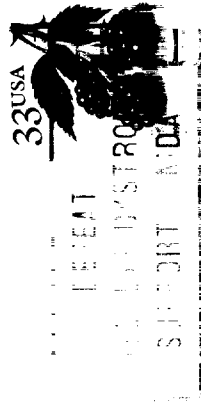
Susan E. Allen

cc: Senator Christopher Dodd  
Senator Joseph Lieberman  
Representative Sam Gejdenson  
Organics Consumers Association

98N-1038

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**A**  
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